Youth Mentoring Programs (taxpayer costs only)

Program description:
Youth mentoring programs include school- and community-based programs such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters. A typical program matches an adult volunteer with a middle school-aged at-risk youth to meet one to four times per month for activities and guidance. This set of results includes our estimates for taxpayer costs only (and excludes the cost of volunteer time).

Typical age of primary program participant: 13

Typical age of secondary program participant: N/A

Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes Measured	Primary or Secondary Participant	No. of Effect Sizes	Unadjusted Effect Sizes (Random Effects Model)			Adjusted Effect Sizes and Standard Errors Used in the Benefit-Cost Analysis					
						First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
			ES	SE	p-value	ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Crime	P	1	-0.07	0.06	0.27	-0.07	0.06	14	-0.07	0.06	24
High school graduation	P	2	0.28	0.38	0.27	0.09	0.38	18	0.09	0.38	18
Age of initiation (alcohol)	P	1	0.41	0.14	0.00	0.41	0.14	14	0.41	0.14	24
Age of initiation (other illicit drugs)	P	1	0.25	0.09	0.00	0.25	0.09	14	0.25	0.09	24
Grade point average	P	9	0.15	0.08	0.05	0.10	0.08	14	0.10	0.08	17

Benefit-Cost Summary

The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2011). The economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in Technical Appendix 2.

Program Benefits					Costs	Summary Statistics			
Participants	Taxpayers	Other	Other Indirect	Total Benefits		Benefit to Cost Ratio	Return on Investment	Benefits Minus Costs	Probability of a positive net present value
$4,822	$2,529	$1,575	$1,275	$10,201	-$1,473	$8.29	16%	$8,728	62%

Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates

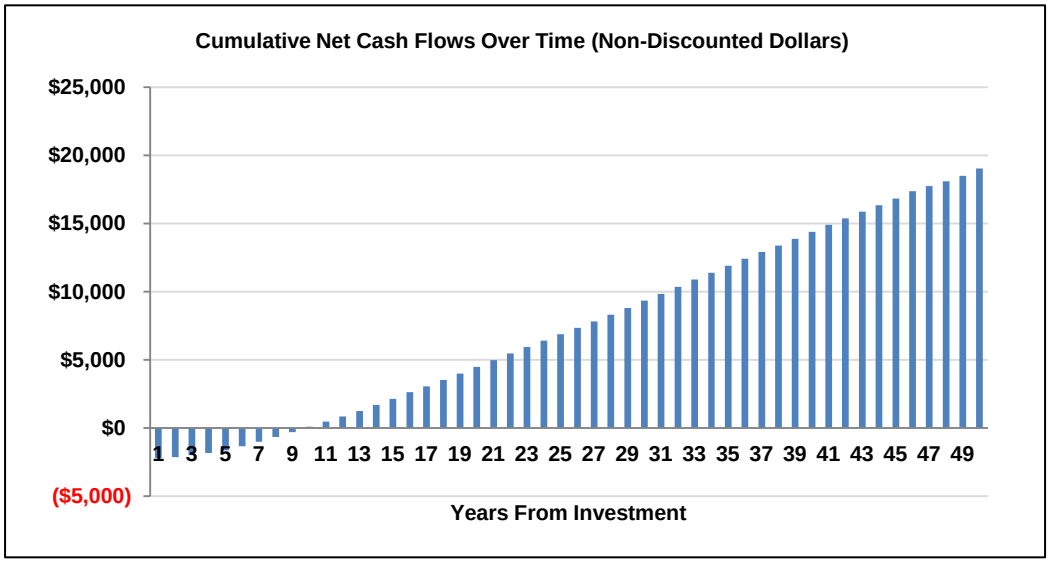
Source of Benefits	Benefits to: Participants	Taxpayers	Other	Other Indirect	Total Benefits
From Primary Participant					
Crime	$0	$495	$1,759	$251	$2,505
Earnings via high school graduation	$4,852	$1,786	$0	$835	$7,473
Property loss from alcohol disorder	$0	$0	$1	$0	$1
Property loss from illicit drug disorder	$1	$0	$2	$0	$2
Health care costs via education	-$32	$248	-$186	$189	$219

Detailed Cost Estimates

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to implement programs in Washington. The comparison group costs reflect either no treatment or treatment as usual, depending on how effect sizes were calculated in the meta-analysis. The uncertainty range is used in Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in Technical Appendix 2.

Program Costs			Comparison Costs			Summary Statistics	
Annual Cost	Program Duration	Year Dollars	Annual Cost	Program Duration	Year Dollars	Present Value of Net Program Costs (in 2011 dollars)	Uncertainty (+ or – %)
$1,000	1	1992	$0	1	1992	$1,475	20%

Source: Cost estimates are based on Institute estimates derived from the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, as described in J.B. Grossman and J.P. Tierney (1998). Does mentoring work? An impact study of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program. Evaluation Review, 22(3): 403-426. Excluding the cost of using volunteers, the taxpayer-only cost was approximately $1,000 in 1992.



Typical age of secondary program participant: N/A

Multiplicative Adjustments Applied to the Meta-Analysis

Type of Adjustment	Multiplier
1- Less well-implemented comparison group or observational study, with some covariates.	0.5
2- Well-implemented comparison group design, often with many statistical controls.	0.5
3- Well-done observational study with many statistical controls (e.g., instrumental variables).	0.75
4- Random assignment, with some implementation issues.	0.75
5- Well-done random assignment study.	1.00
Program developer = researcher	0.5
Unusual (not “real-world”) setting	0.5
Weak measurement used	0.5

Studies Used in the Meta-Analysis

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